MUSC 1170 – Jazz Improvisation I
Common Course Outline

I. Reviewed: Spring 2007

I. Catalog Description:
This course provides students with the skills necessary to create music with self expression in jazz styles. The course includes a practical application of scales, arpeggios, and melodic lines to the student's instrument. Transcribing solos from recordings by famous jazz artists and independent study with tutorial computer programs are required. Listening and performing in class are major components of the course. Prereq: MUSC 1131.

II. Recommended Entry Skills and Knowledge:
   A. Understanding of music notation, keys, and major scales.
   B. Previous experience playing an instrument.
   C. Consent of instructor.

III. Course Content:
   A. Scales: Major, minor (Dorian), Mixolydian, Diminished (Minor w/b5th), Augmented (Major w/# 5th) Pentatonic (Major and Minor), Whole Tone.
   B. Arpeggios:
      1. based on preceding scales
      2. triads and seventh chords
   C. Blues progressions: written and performance comprehension.
   D. Listening: studying jazz recordings.
   E. Computer applications: work on terminology and computer software programs including Jamey Aebersold Improvisation Series; Smart Music; Band-In-A-Box.
   F. Learn jazz standards: melodies and chord progressions.
   G. Application of chord symbols to jazz standards.
   H. Transcribe recorded examples of improvised jazz solos.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes:
In order to complete this course, the student will be able to:
   A. Perform all scales and arpeggios covered in the course on his/her instrument. (MNTC goal 2d)
   B. Understand blues progressions and blues improvisation styles. (MNTC goal 2c)
   C. Independently produce and create an improvisation from chord symbols and a given melody. (MNTC goal 2c)
   D. Correctly identify recorded examples of jazz standards, using appropriate terminology and identification of style. (MNTC goal 2c)
   E. Accurately transcribe a recorded solo by a jazz artist. (MNTC goal 2b)
   F. Fluently use computer applications and technology introduced in the course. (MNTC goal 2b)

V. Methods for Evaluation of Student Learning:
   A. Weekly evaluation of scales, arpeggios, and chord symbol recognition.
   B. Midterm and final exams, both written and performed.
   C. Transcription projects.

VI. Other Information: none